



LIGHTNING ALERT SYSTEM! April showers bring May flowers — and thunderstorms, too! Six of the town's parks — Sharp Athletic Complex, Main Square, Homestead, Sheppard, Markley and Meadows — are equipped with devices that activate a siren/strobe light when lightning is detected within 10 miles of town.

GAZEBOEXPRESS

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENT SOURCE FOR THE TOWN OF HIGHLAND • APRIL 2018

HIGHLAND PARKS AND RECREATION

NEW HIGHLAND SKATE PARK

The burgeoning board sport community is pumped about the park's plans to begin construction on a skate park in May.

Local enthusiasts are just as excited about the design-and-build firm creating a state-of-the-sport venue on what is now the 8,000-square-foot tennis courts at Sheppard Park.

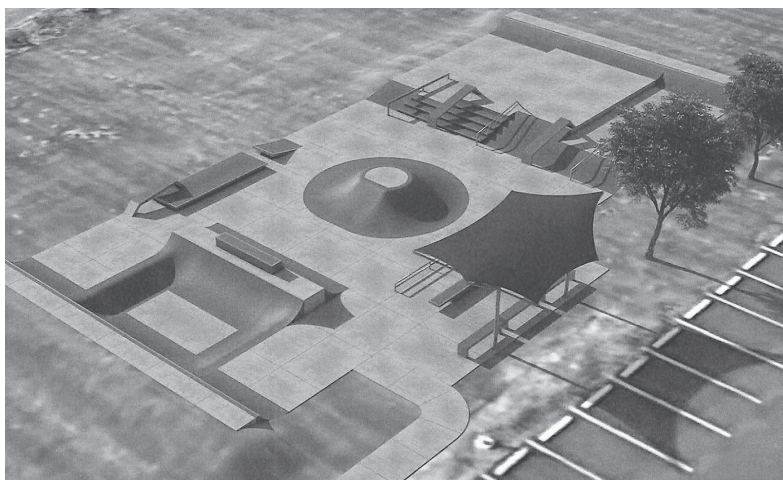
Board Shop owner Joe Murovic said California's Spohn Ranch is as good as it gets.

"The Park Department worked with the skateboarding community to create what will be the best park in the region," Murovic said.

Parks Superintendent Alex Brown said the \$300,000 project, which will open this summer, has been in-the-works for years.

"Skateboarding will be a great addition to Sheppard Park," he said. "The new facility will fit roughly within the same footprint as the tennis courts, which have long been under-utilized."

Murovic expects the new park and 2020 Olympics will renew interest in the sport. "Highland stepped it up. Skateboarding is on the upswing and this new park will be a great addition." 🌿



ABOUT THE NEW SKATE PARK

The new skate park features ...

- ✓ Transitional elements and innovative roundwall creations that speak to skateboarders of varying skill levels.
- ✓ Street-style or downtown-esque settings defined by stairs, handrails, planters and benches.

Did you know skate parks ...

- ✓ Provide a safe environment that reduces skateboarding injuries, including collisions with vehicles.
- ✓ Boost fitness and mental health by combining extreme exertion with muscle coordination and balance.

ERIE-LACKAWANNA TRAIL DRAWS ACCOLADES, INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION

TrailLink.com lauded the attributes of the Erie Lackawanna Trail to its international audience, telling them what locals already know: the meandering paved path is a regional treasure.

With nearly 400 daily users, Parks Superintendent Alex Brown said the Highland trail is even more popular today than when it was built as the first leg of what would become a regional hub nearly 25 years ago.

Today, the 17.7-mile trail, which extends from Crown Point to Hammond, will take you as far as you can pedal, walk or skate via a series of additional connectors to dunes, prairies, cornfields — and even Chicago.

"There was opposition from many residents when the project was planned," Brown said. "Today, the bike path is beloved. People can't imagine what they would do without it." 🌿



CAMP DONATIONS

The Highland Police Department is seeking donations for its 7th grade summer camp, which focuses on team building and reinforcing skills learned in the Gang Resistance Education and Training program.

WANT TO HELP? Please call Cmdr. John Banasiak at (219) 838-3184 or email jbanasiak@highland.in.gov.

TREE ADVISORY BOARD

The Highland Town Council is accepting applications for the newly formed Tree Advisory Board, which will serve as a catalyst for active urban forest resource management. Applicants must be a resident of Highland with an interest in the Urban Forestry Management Plan. The council will appoint five board members for a term of three years.

INFO: Download an application online at highland.in.gov.



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NEWS TIP? STORY IDEA?

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CARDINAL CAMPUS EXPECTED TO GENERATE \$42.5 MILLION TAX BASE

The town's Economic and Redevelopment commissions took significant steps in March to advance the Cardinal Campus project.

At issue is a financing package that will help pay for infrastructure – without town property owners incurring debt as a result.

Yet this spring, the town plans to issue up to \$16.5 million in private activity bonds, which will be purchased in their entirety by Cardinal Campus developer Claude Gendreau.

In advance of the bond sale, the Redevelopment Commission created a niche allocation area that includes Cardinal Campus only and pledged new property taxes paid there to the bond repayment.

With Tax Increment Financing, property taxes are paid based on the value of new construction but are divided up between two funds.

Property taxes paid on the pre-construction value of the property are sent to the town general fund.

Property taxes paid on the post-construction property value are segregated into a fund that can be used to help pay for improvements.

Clerk-Treasurer Michael Griffin said projec-



ABOUT CARDINAL CAMPUS

Located east of Prairie Avenue along Main, the 9.24-acre Cardinal Campus will feature a professional office park and 30-room boutique hotel. **INFO:** Visit highland.in.gov to view renderings and complete project details.

tions show significant benefit to the town as the project is realized.

"This project is expected to generate a new tax base of \$42.5 million, not including the new jobs and payrolls," Griffin said. "If we were evaluating this based upon rate of return, we would say that at full development, there will be a return of 158 percent relative to the bonds issued." 🌱

HPD WELCOMES SEASONED PROFESSIONALS ...

The ranks of those who serve and protect have been bolstered by a pair of hires. The council approved the employment of a new officer and animal warden. Please welcome Tyler Dills and Theresa Jansen.

NEW POLICE OFFICER



Tyler James Dills has been sworn in as Highland's newest police officer. Dills, 24, is a hometown boy and 2012 Highland High School graduate. Most recently, the Val-paraiso resident was an officer in Westville.

Dills is Northwest-Indiana-Law-Enforcement-Academy certified and was selected from the department's eligibility list based, in part, on his Highland roots and positive character.

NEW ANIMAL WARDEN



Lifelong Highland resident Theresa Jansen has been named the town's Animal Warden. She comes to the job with a wealth of experience working with animals – both at local humane societies and animal control

facilities. The focus of animal control is domesticated dogs and cats but may be contacted for other animal-related issues, including information on borrowing humane traps.

ANIMAL CONTROL INFO: If you need to report an immediate situation (dog running loose), call 911. To report a lost dog or cat, or borrow a humane animal trap, call the HPD at (219) 838-3184.



Festivities on East Fourth Place include an extended neighborhood celebration with a traveling potluck breakfast. This year, Jennifer Joseph took her turn as host.



A magical Easter!

FROM CANDY TO TOYS ... ONE SECRET EASTER BUNNY KEEPS HIGHLAND NEIGHBORHOOD HOPPING FOR JOY

When Jennifer Joseph and her family moved onto East Fourth Place, she had no idea the neighborhood held a delightful, tightly held secret.

It wouldn't be until the following spring that the Easter Bunny's mascot showed themselves.

"My very first Easter here my son woke me up Easter morning, asking me if he could go outside and get what the Easter Bunny had brought," she said. "I was confused and told him, 'There was nothing outside.' He said, 'Yes there is. All the kids are out there.' I got up to see what he was talking about and sure enough there were Easter eggs, toy water guns, kites, baseballs, candy and so much more.

"It was absolutely magical."

The neighbors then walked across the street to hug Joseph and wish her a Happy Easter.

"They began to tell me this happens every year," she said. "They have no idea who the Easter bunny is."

In the years that followed, Joseph and her neighbors - both young and old - renew the magic of the season and the gifts of one who has knitted the neighborhood into one big, beautiful family.

"Our block is like living in the good ol' days. I didn't realize there were still neighbors and neighborhoods like this one," she said. "We don't know who our very own Easter Bunny is, but we want to pass along a message: Thank you for bringing such magic and happiness into our lives."

CALLING ALL POETS!

The Main Street Committee is accepting nominations for the 2018 Poet Laureate. All nominees must be a poet and a current/former Highland resident. The position has been expanded to a two-year term. Deadline to apply is April 20.

INFO: Download details at highland.in.gov. Please send all entries to Highland Redevelopment Commission, 3333 Ridge Road in Highland or email lyriskamp@highland.in.gov.

BURLINGTON'S COMING

The owners of Highland Grove have added Burlington to its growing list of retailers. The company, long known for discount coats, clothing and home goods, will replace the recently closed Catherine's and Tuesday Morning shops on the north end of the mall.

INFO: BurlingtonStores.com

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Join the Highland Lions Club for its 74th annual pancake breakfast, featuring all-you-can-eat pancakes, sausage, biscuits/gravy, juice, milk and coffee.

WHEN: 8 a.m. to noon **MAY 5**

WHERE: Gloria Dei, 3711 Ridge Road

COST: \$6 for adults, \$3 for children (under 5 are free), \$15 for a family (two adults, two children).

LEAF & BRANCH PICKUP

Leaf collection

A crew will pick up leaves the first two weeks of April. Leaves should be raked into a pile or row in the parkway between the sidewalk and curb as close to the street as possible. Please make sure there are no vehicles blocking leaf piles at, or near, your residence.

Branch collection

Crews will be running daily routes to collect branches. Place branch piles — free of any other yard debris — in front of the property, not in alleys. Please note: small handfuls of branches can be disposed of in your weekly trash bin. Town equipment is designed for tree branches only. Heavier logs and debris will be picked up every Friday. Crews do not pick up landscaping timbers, railroad ties or fencing. Yard waste can be dumped at the town garage at no charge to residents. Anything other than yard waste must be taken to the town garage where residents must obtain a permit.

INFO: Please call (219) 972-5083.

SWIM CLUB REGISTRATION

The Highland Hurricanes Swim Club, a competitive swim team for youth ages 5 through 18 in Highland and surrounding communities, is conducting swim assessments/registration for its 2018 summer season, which begins **APRIL 23**. Birth certificate required at registration. Please bring a swimsuit and towel for an in-water evaluation.

WHEN: 5:30 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, **APRIL 10** and **APRIL 17** as well as the first week of practice from 5:30 to 7 p.m. **APRIL 23**.

WHERE: Highland High School Natatorium classroom, 41st and 5th streets. Enter through door "P" across from the softball field.

FEES: Vary according to skill level. Payment plans and family discounts are available.

INFO: (219) 595-9357 or highlandhurricanes.net.

CRAFT SHOW & VENDOR FAIR

The best in arts and crafts will be showcased at the annual spring show, featuring candles, jewelry, handbags, home décor, wellness products/services, homemade items, gourmet dips and more.

WHEN: 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, **APRIL 14**

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

VENDOR FEES: \$43 for 10' x 10' interior space and \$70 for 23' x 6' wall booth (7% sales tax included). Please note: table, chairs and extension cords are not provided.

INFO: highlandparks.org or (219) 838-0114

CALLING ALL VENDORS!

Do you have items you would like to resell, but don't want to invite people into your home to show your products? Rent a booth at our **MAY 12** garage sale and comic show.

VENDOR FEES: \$33 for 10' x 10' interior space and \$54 for 23' x 6' wall booth

INFO: highlandparks.org or (219) 838-0114

TUMBLEBEAR GYMNASTICS

Registration opens **APRIL 10** for our spring Tumblebear Gymnastics classes. Please wear comfortable clothing and gym shoes. No jeans!

PARENT-TOT: Walking to age 3
10:40 to 11:15 a.m.

Hand-eye coordination, colors, motor skills and exploration emphasized during lessons on the balance beam, bars, tumbling and vaulting.

PRESCHOOL: Ages 3-5
10-10:35 a.m., 4:30-5:05 p.m., 6-6:35 p.m.

Learn letters and positive words while growing skills in tumbling, vault, beam and bars.

SCHOOL AGE: Ages 5-12
3:45-4:30 p.m., 5:15-6 p.m., 6:45-7:30 p.m.

Develop fitness, character and self-esteem at an individual pace in a safe setting.

SESSIONS: Tuesdays, **APRIL 17-MAY 29**

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

FEE: \$55 residents / \$60 nonresidents. Please note: There is no credit for missed classes.

INFO: highlandparks.org or (219) 838-0114

EARTH DAY APRIL 22

Show your support by planting a tree, walking or riding your bike instead of taking a car, reducing your consumption of non-recyclable goods and recycling where you can.



SPRING CLEANUP

Republic Waste Services will schedule extra crews **MAY 15** to collect trash and rubbish generated by spring cleaning. Residents are encouraged to take advantage of the increased collection crews. **NOT INCLUDED:** Construction debris, concrete, electronics, televisions, household hazardous waste and leaves. Televisions, computers and electronics may be recycled at the Public Works, 8001 Kennedy Ave.

INFO: Call (219) 972-5083.

PARK PRIDE

Join Highland Parks and Rec for the 17th annual community park clean-up day from 9 to 11:30 a.m.

APRIL 21. Everyone is welcome, especially community groups and families. You will be assigned a park for clean-up. Bring gloves, rakes and energy! Immediately after, meet us at Lincoln Center to receive your free T-shirt and lunch.

INFO: Register at Lincoln Center or call (219) 838-0114.



DRUG RECYCLING

Turn in unused or expired medications to the proper authorities instead of flushing or throwing them out. Highland Police will participate in the drug take-back program from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. **APRIL 28** at the police department, 3315 Ridge Road.

INFO: Call Officer Ken Balon at (219) 838-3184.